

TRAIL & Landscape

A PUBLICATION CONCERNED WITH
NATURAL HISTORY AND CONSERVATION



THE OTTAWA FIELD-NATURALISTS' CLUB

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Trail & Landscape

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The Ottawa Field ~ Naturalists' Club

— Founded 1879 —

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Objectives of the Club: To promote the appreciation, preservation and conservation of Canada's natural heritage; to encourage investigation and publish the results of research in all fields of natural history and to diffuse information on these fields as widely as possible; to support and co-operate with organizations engaged in preserving, maintaining or restoring environments of high quality for living things.

Club Publications: THE CANADIAN FIELD-NATURALIST, devoted to publishing research in natural history; TRAIL & LANDSCAPE, a non-technical publication of general interest to local naturalists. THE SHRIKE, a local birding newsletter, is available by separate subscription.

Field Trips, Lectures and other natural history activities are arranged for local members. See "Coming Events" in this issue.

Membership Fees: Individual (yearly) \$10 Sustaining (yearly) \$25
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Early Winter at Stony Swamp

JMR

Welcome, New Members

Ottawa Area

Laurie L. Buckland
Ian J. Henderson
Kathy Lajeunesse
Silvia L. Lucherini

Harry A. McLeod
Isabelle Nicol
Norman & Ruth Simmons

Other Areas

Chris Olsen
Edmonton, Alberta

E.L. Reader
Windsor, Ontario

If you know any of our new members or meet them, make them welcome and introduce them to others.

September, 1981

The Membership Committee
Fran Goodspeed, Chairman

from the Editor...

Here at the end of Volume 15, my Associate Editors and I express our appreciation to those who have helped us put the last five issues of *Trail & Landscape* in your hands.

We want especially to recognize the hard work of our Production Staff whose names are listed on the inside front cover of each issue, and our black-and-white print-maker, Allan Reddoch. All of this work is done by volunteers, most of it fitted in after regular working hours.

We also express our gratitude to Dr. Louis Lemieux, Director of the National Museum of Natural Sciences. Most of the issues of all fifteen volumes have been typed in his offices. We thank Dorothea Skinner and Heather Shannon for scheduling our working nights.

If you wish to contribute to *Trail & Landscape* in some way - writing, production, editing - please let us know. *Trail & Landscape* will continue to thrive as long as there are volunteers to produce it and as long as there are articles to print in it.

Joyce M. Reddoch

OFNC Awards

In 1979, the Council of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club was asked to consider the suggestion that the Club adopt one or more internal awards designed to recognise and honour outstanding work of members in endeavours of interest to the Club. A committee was formed to consider the suggestions and make recommendations to the Council. A report proposing four new internal awards and guidelines for an Awards Committee was submitted to the Council and adopted in May 1981. The content of this report is as follows:

Honorary Member (an existing award) - as currently defined in the Constitution. It is proposed that the evaluation and nomination of members for this award be made in future (as of 1982) by the Awards Committee rather than the Membership Committee.

Member of the Year Award To be given annually to the member who is judged by the Committee to have contributed the most to The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club in the previous year.

O.F.N.C. Service Award To be given in recognition of a member who has contributed significantly to the smooth running of the Club over several years.

Naturalists' Award To be given in recognition of a member who, in a non-professional capacity, has made a recent, outstanding contribution to natural history.

Conservation Award To be given in recognition of a member who has made a recent, outstanding contribution to the cause of natural history conservation.

Committee Guidelines

Nominations are open to all members in good standing. Officers of the Club are excluded from Member of the Year Award and O.F.N.C. Service Award.

Member of the Year Award is to be the only annual award. Other awards need not be made yearly.

Nominations by the Awards Committee for all awards will be subject to approval by the Council.

The O.F.N.C. Service Award, the Naturalists' Award and the Conservation Award may be awarded jointly for cooperative activities on a single project.

The Awards Committee will consult with chairmen of other

committees for information on members who are active in the Club.

A call for nominations for all Club awards will be made by the Awards Committee annually in both *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* and *Trail & Landscape*.

The Awards Committee will inform the membership of recipients of Club awards in both *The C.F.N.* and *T & L*.

The Awards Committee is currently considering nominations for the new awards as well as for the Honorary Member award. The official presentation of all these awards will follow the precedent set by the Honorary Member Award and be made at the Annual Soirée. The first presentation of the Member of the Year Award will be for the calendar year of 1981 and will be presented at the Soirée in April 1982.

Nominations by Club members for the awards should be sent as soon as possible to

The Chairman,
Awards Committee,
The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club,
Box 3264, Postal Station C,
Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 4J5

Verbal nominations to members of the Awards Committee will also be accepted. To help both the Committee and your nominee, please enclose as full a list as possible of the reasons for your nomination.

As part of its duties, the Awards Committee will also be informing the Club membership of awards given by other organizations to honour achievements in the field of natural history. Short notes on pertinent awards and the closing dates for nominations will appear in *Trail & Landscape*. The information will be provided so that members can make private nominations, or, through the Awards Committee, official Club nominations of eligible Club members.

There are always drawbacks and dangers in establishing an award system and in judging candidates. The Awards Committee will have many difficult decisions to make; generalizations and guidelines are easy to make and follow before the problems of individual cases arise.

Enjoyment and appreciation of natural history is the spirit behind our very successful Club. This spirit should be reflected in the presentation of these awards. The people receiving the awards will, in their own ways, have helped many members of the Club to enjoy and appreciate the world we live in.

Stephen Darbyshire
Awards Committee Chairman

Buckeyes and Other Travellers

Peter Hall

The story of the migrant butterflies as recorded by Ross Layberry in the last issue of *Trail & Landscape* continues. The second generation Buckeyes that emerged near South March were present for several weeks then gradually disappeared by mid-August. But it was not to be the end of this interesting visitor. A trip on August 29 to the sandy spot where the Buckeyes had settled in revealed that another generation had emerged in large numbers. As of mid-September, several individuals were still to be found.

The future of this itinerant traveller in the Ottawa area is now questionable. The adults will die off, and the larvae of this southern species are not expected to survive the harsh Ottawa winter. A search is underway for the larvae which are known in the United States to feed on plantain, toadflax, monkey flower and gerardia, all present near South March. If larvae are found, an attempt will be made to rear them over the winter and perhaps release some adults next year.

As a side note, several other Buckeyes have been found south and east of Ottawa, revealing that more of the migrants probably showed up than originally suspected. (One specimen was captured near Merrickville by Joyce and Allan Reddoch's car!)



Buckeye

photo by M. Parker

By mid-September, other butterfly migrants were amassing in numbers on flowers, some getting ready to fly south. Monarchs were the most notable, but Painted Ladies and American Painted Ladies were also around in numbers.

The Red Admirals that were so abundant during the summer appear to have dropped off in numbers as postulated by Ross Layberry in the last issue of *T&L*. Parasites may have increased to account for this drop.

The migrant invasion this year is being tabulated carefully, and the information will be included in the upcoming *Butterflies of the Ottawa District*, appearing soon in *Trail & Landscape*.

This annotated checklist will also include records of several occurrences of rare butterflies in the Ottawa District this past field season. In addition to the Little Sulphur and Variegated Fritillary reported in Ross Layberry's article, the Early Hairstreak was back again in the Gatineau Hills this spring. As well, several Eastern Tailed Blues were recorded, one near Danford Lake by Peter Hall and two near Rockland by Ross Layberry. Ian Jones reported several Edward's Hairstreaks from Braeside just outside the Ottawa District. This is a rare species for the District which has been reported only a few times.

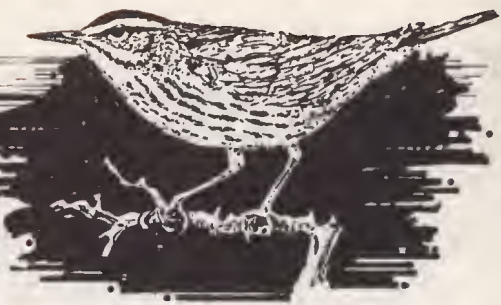
These records, and many other new location records of resident butterflies, are the result of intensive field work this year by many individuals. More and more Club members are catching on to the fascination of butterfly watching, and it may not be long before a butterfly early alert will be set up. Watch out, birders!



Painted Lady

photo by G.R. Hanes

Recent Bird Sightings



Val Bernard Ladouceur and
Bruce M. Di Labio

One paradox of birding is that you expect the unexpected to occur. With that bit of philosophy aside, we then can say that the period from June to August had a near normal number of highlights.

Spring migration petered out by the second week of June, but by the last week of that month some shorebirds were already on their way back south. July featured an early shorebird migration with very good numbers being reported for these birds as well as for puddle ducks. The reason for the good numbers was the low water level of the Ottawa River which exposed large areas of mud flats and shallow water (good for surface-feeding ducks). These conditions existed from July 24 until the first week of September.

Loons and Grebes: The number of Common Loon sightings on the Ottawa River was considerably down from previous years - possibly due to increased boating. Three very late Red-necked Grebes were reported on June 1.

Cormorants and Herons: Double-crested Cormorants were present throughout this period with 3 through June and July, and upwards of 12 in late August. An unprecedented number of 87 Great Blue Herons were at Shirley's Bay on July 27. Two adult Black-crowned Night Herons were recorded on June 30 at Hull and Ramsayville. By late August several of these birds were reported along the Ottawa River. It was a good summer for Least Bittern with no fewer than 7 individuals found on territory.

Waterfowl: Very surprising was a Snow Goose which was at Nepean Bay for the latter part of June. Other interesting waterfowl sightings were a female Red-breasted Merganser on June 9th, a male Ring-necked Duck on the 30th, a small number of Lesser Scaup along the Ottawa River throughout the summer, and one male Puddy Duck on August 2nd.

Hawks, etc.: As in the past two summers, there were numerous sightings of Turkey Vultures. Their increase in numbers during the last ten years has been phenomenal.

All three accipiter species were reported breeding this summer. An immature Peregrine Falcon of unknown origin was sighted on August 22nd at Constance Bay. An early Merlin was

observed chasing shorebirds at Shirley's Bay on July 25th.

Gray Partridge: An already large population, a mild winter, and a good breeding season have combined to produce a surplus of Gray Partridge. Ruffed Grouse and Ring-necked Pheasant are doing well too.

Rails, etc.: Up to 5 Yellow Rails were heard calling in Richmond Swamp (Fen) until at least the middle of June. American Coots were found breeding again at Ramsayville Marsh.

Shorebirds: Northbound shorebirds in early June included a Northern Phalarope on June 3rd, a late Greater Yellowlegs and a late Short-billed Dowitcher on June 10th. Among the early southbound migrants were Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot (the only report this year), Dunlin and Sanderling on July 20th, Stilt Sandpiper on July 25th, Baird's Sandpiper and Northern Phalarope on July 29th, Golden Plover on August 8th, and Red Phalarope on August 25th and 26th. No fewer than 9 Wilson's Phalaropes and 25 Northern Phalaropes were reported this summer. Ottawa's second report of American Avocet was made on August 31st near Shirley's Bay.

Gulls and Terns: Highlights included Franklin's Gull on June 9th and 27th, and 2 immature Little Gulls between June 19th and 27th. It was a good summer for terns with 2 Arctic Terns on June 1st, Caspian Tern and Ottawa's fourth record of Forster's Tern on August 22nd.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: This bird continues to be difficult to locate with only 4 or 5 being reported.

Saw-whet Owl: A nest and young of this species were found for the first time in recent years.

Flycatchers: All 9 breeding species were recorded during the summer.

Northern Mockingbird: In the west end of the city 2 broods of this species were raised for the third consecutive year.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: This very scarce species was observed at Kilmaurs on June 13th.

Warblers: Upwards to 20 species of warbler were reported in the area during the breeding season. Golden-winged Warbler reports were relatively widespread. Ottawa's second record of Louisiana Waterthrush was found singing in suitable habitat in Gatineau Park from July 4th to 10th. The initial observation, which is also the second record for Quebec, was made by Philippe Blain.

Cardinal: This species was again found nesting in the west end of the city.

House Finch: Our west-end resident bachelor House Finch put in its third summer of mate hunting.

Crossbills: A large flock of 35 Red Crossbills was spotted on June 27th. Reports of White-winged Crossbills in the area of the airport began in late August.

First Annual Ottawa Seed-a-thon

Val Bernard Ladouceur and Bruce M. Di Labio

The first annual Ottawa Seed-a-thon on September 13, 1981, recorded a total of 132 species and raised over \$600 to go towards maintaining OFNC bird feeders this winter. Weather for the count was sunny, warm and windy. Believe it or not, these conditions translate into poor fall birding and, therefore, a lot of hard work. What makes it worse was the large amount of rain the week before which produced very high water levels along the Ottawa River, eliminating shorebird habitat and causing the large number of puddle ducks on the river to disperse to areas of shallower water.

Team A, consisting of Bruce Di Labio and Jim Harris, logged 300 km in recording 125 species. Team B, involving Dan Brunton, Roger Taylor and Bernard Ladouceur (a refugee from the defunct Team C) covered 200 km in recording 104 species.

There were very few highlights, but of interest were 35 Hooded Mergansers, 9 species of Hawk including one Merlin (Shirley's Bay and Britannia), a Short-eared Owl (at Shirley's Bay), 8 Great Horned Owls, a Barred Owl, 2 Whip-poor-wills (calling), all 6 species of swallow, 20 species of warbler, and 4 White-winged Crossbills (at the airport). The observations of Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Eastern Kingbird and Olive-sided Flycatcher represent pretty well the last we'll see of these species this year. Both Northern Mockingbird and Cardinal were observed in the west end.

Migrant numbers were extremely low with many species being represented by one or two individuals. No Pintail was recorded. Numbers for shorebirds, sparrows and many finches were particularly low.

All five participants wish to thank those who sponsored us in our efforts. Every sponsor will receive a detailed report of the results of each team and a complete list of the birds seen. The contributions ensure that there will be a lot of fat chickadees. By the time this article appears in print, we will be on the verge of reaping the very worthwhile benefits.

The Fate of McKay Lake

Stephen Darbyshire

McKay Lake is a small lake on the eastern side of Rockcliffe Park Village. It is less than five minutes drive from 24 Sussex Drive and even closer to the cities of Ottawa and Vanier. Adjacent to McKay Lake on the east side is another even smaller lake that is locally called the Sand Pits. To the southeast of the lakes is the last remnant of MacKay's Bush; beyond that, across Hemlock Road, are the wooded hills of Beechwood Cemetery. To the northwest of McKay Lake across Hillsdale Drive is the drainage channel from McKay Lake to the Ottawa River.

McKay Lake has long been a favourite stomping ground for naturalists and other people seeking a quiet walk. As a young boy I can remember spending many happy hours in the large marsh bordering the northeastern shore. Much of my early knowledge of the Ottawa area flora and fauna came from the inhabitants of this lake. One of my most vivid memories of the lake is catching my first Garter Snake when I was seven. I remember clearly the



The extensive marshes bordering the northeastern shore of McKay Lake in the 1920s The Public Archives of Canada C 22151

bright black and yellow ribbon dashing at incredible speed through the grasses and sedges up a sunny embankment and away from several very excited boys. The beauty and grace of this funny animal with no legs filled me with great awe and kindled intense interest that will last me a lifetime.

As with the Garter Snake I was first introduced to many of our local animals with and without four legs at McKay Lake. At this time, in the late 1950s and early 1960s, the lake still had an extensive marsh around much of its border. There were houses along the west and south shores, and the lake drained naturally to the north through a gully to the Ottawa River. Now a storm sewer runs underground past McKay Lake and the Sand Pits and through this gully to the river. The runoff from the lake, which occurs only in the spring and early summer, now runs through the sewer system. The Sand Pits is separated from McKay Lake by only a narrow strip of sand along its western shore. At one time it was even narrower than it is now, and the two lakes were joined at one point by a shallow channel that usually dried up in late summer as the water level of the lakes fell.

Those were the good old days for McKay Lake, although it did not seem like it at the time. The land around both lakes was privately owned, and even then it seemed inevitable that the Rockcliffe Park waterfront property would be developed, for it could only increase in value with each passing year. The first sign of the impending disaster was the construction of a road through the woods south of the lake, around the east and north shores of the Sand Pits and to the edge of the marshes on the eastern shore of McKay Lake.

What happened next was horrible. Fill was dumped in very large quantities on the floating vegetation mats of the marshes. For such a small lake, McKay is very deep, but despite this the developers managed to create at least a dozen new lots. While seeking shelter from the objectional appearance and noise of the dump trucks, the turtles, mice, muskrats and other wildlife were buried in their homes.

This dumping was finally stopped when the residents on the west side of the lake brought pressure to bear. It has been said among conservationists that you can never stop progress, you can only stall it in a few places for a little while. And so it is with McKay Lake. Early in 1981 the plan for development of McKay Lake area was released, and lots for "Rockcliffe on the Lake" are now selling. The plan, opposite, calls for almost one hundred residences in the last remaining woods around McKay Lake. This Sugar Maple woods east of McKay Lake and east and south of the Sand Pits will be sacrificed. The northern shore where most of the dumping occurred will not be used for construction.

It is hard to say to what extent the development will affect the present day remnant of marsh, although there is no doubt that

there will be a detrimental effect. The construction activity alone will cause great disturbance, and then people will move in. The descendants of my Garter Snake will not be wanted in back yards. Vegetation will be tamed and made to lie down or sit up very straight.

McKay Lake will become unrecognizable to me. I will not be able to find hundreds of different plants and animals I know from the lake. Each one of these organisms is savage and fiercely independent, at least in spirit, each focussing interest on its own unique way of life. Many accept no compromises and demand the best of living conditions. It may not have been wilderness, but multitudes called it home. The key here is that it was a diverse multitude. In the future the number of individuals in the multitude will probably decrease somewhat or stay essentially the same, but the number of different kinds of individuals will be much less. The richness is gone; the spice of life dulled. On a small scale the reduction of animal and plant diversity may be considered as simply less of a feast for the eyes. On a large scale, however, the reduction of biological diversity that is going on on a planetary scale may soon threaten our survival as well as our enjoyment and knowledge.

In my mind's eye I will always see the McKay Lake Green Herons stalking frogs in the evening among the cattails, the Virginia Rails running about in their preoccupied way, the Pied-



Proposed McKay Lake Subdivision

billed Grebes floating by like bathtub toys, the Painted Turtles stacked on a log with hind feet spread wide to catch the sun, the Bullhead Catfish escorting a school of five thousand young slowly through the shallows, and male Flathead Minnows setting up the nursery and chasing any potential spouse. It will be rare in the future for McKay Lake to feel the soft footsteps of the heron in her mud, or the swift and smooth passing of a diving grebe in her depths, or the ripples and splashing of two dozen frantic turtles scrambling off a log at her surface.

After completion of the final phase of development, McKay Lake will be very unattractive for most of its past residents and visitors, both human and non-human.

George E. Findlay

The Club has been saddened to learn of the death of George Findlay of Carleton Place on July 28, 1981. Mr. Findlay joined the Club in 1950 and was well known to birders.

He was one of five people who carried out the first Carleton Place Christmas Bird Count in 1944, and he reported on thirty-five years of this census in *Trail & Landscape* a year ago (pages 150-153). He described a "Woodpecker Incident" during the 1979 Count (T&L 14(2): 35) and an "Owl Incident" in 1975 (T&L 9(4): 114-115).

Many OFNC members will continue to look forward to participating in the Carleton Place Christmas Count.

Mr. Findlay was the first chairman of the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority when it was formed in May 1968. He was keenly interested in conservation work, and the Authority has profited not only by his Christmas Bird Count efforts but also by his assistance with the Heronry Census and other work, including a program at the Mill of Kintail. He will be greatly missed in these activities.

The Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority has sent a contribution in memory of George Findlay to The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, expressing the hope that it will assist the Club in pursuing some of his concerns.

To Mrs. Findlay we extend our sincere sympathy in her loss.

Two Botanists on Stamps

Joyce M. Reddoch

On July 22, 1981, Canada Post Office issued stamps commemorating two self-taught Canadian botanists whose works are of particular interest to OFNC members. The stamps will remain on sale only until January 22.

John Macoun (1831-1920) was, as you probably already know, an early member of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club and was Club President for 1886-1887. He was the first botanist to explore Canada's West and report on its potential for agriculture. In 1882, he was appointed Dominion Botanist for the Geological Survey of Canada; his extensive botanical collections are in the National Herbarium and in other major herbaria in North America and Britain.

The second edition of the *Autobiography of John Macoun* may still be ordered from the Club address on the inside front cover (\$12.50 plus \$2.00 for postage and handling).

Frère Marie-Victorin (1885-1944) became a botany professor at the University of Montreal in 1920. About a decade later he founded the Montreal Botanical Gardens, one of the largest botanical gardens in the world. He is particularly admired by Ottawa botanists for his *Flore laurentienne*, the only flora available which includes the Ottawa area specifically in its treatment.

The plants represented in the bottom corners of the stamps are, for Marie-Victorin, two horticultural species to commemorate the founding of the Montreal Botanical Gardens, *Lobularia maritima* and *Tagetes* sp. The plants accompanying John Macoun's portrait are, believe it or not, the alien Deptford Pink (*Dianthus deltoides*) and the native New England Aster (*Aster novae-angliae*).



Botanizing from Snowshoes

Daniel F. Brunton

The seeds of Thimbleweed drifted along the lake shore, each seed suspended beneath a feathery plume that made it buoyant in the breeze. Fragile and Marginal Shield Fern fronds bobbed in the breeze. Ebony Sedge, its fruit glistening black against the white rock, poked out from mossy crevices in the marble. All that was missing was the laughter of a loon and the rippling sounds of the paddle that *should* have been pushing a canoe along, beneath these overhanging cliffs that marked the northern shore of this silent, Canadian Shield lake.

Summer reminiscence? That was the scene on Lac Fournier at the Mont Ste. Marie Ski Resort last December! We had specifically hiked across the frozen lake and into the metre-deep snow of the lakeshore woods in search of rare ferns in general and the Purple Cliffbrake fern (*Pellaea atropurpurea*) in particular. No need for insect repellent and cool drinks this day! The habitat was ideal; the species was known from just south of here, and besides, it was a good excuse to get out on the 'shoes. During an enjoyable tramp over, across and along the various marble outcrops that are the preferred habitat of the Cliffbrake, we identified eight species of ferns, numerous herbaceous plants (including grasses and sedges) and lots of trees and shrubs.

The Purple Cliff-brake? No, we didn't find it. We did find lots of its rare cousin, Slender Cliffbrake (*Cryptogramma stelleri*), however, and that was a pleasant surprise (having forgotten that Dave White found it here years ago!). Such is the way with "things botanical" often as not.

The point of all this is to show that one need not limit botanizing to the warm summer growing season. Snowshoes can be as much an aid to plant finding (or birdwatching or whatever) as a canoe. Many plants, such as the evergreen ferns and the heaths, keep their leaves year-round and are just as easy to identify in the winter as they are in the summer. Others, especially those of dry sites like cliffs and ridge tops, are mummified by the wind and cold and retain the important features for identification well into winter. With a little practice, you can even learn to identify the shrivelled remains of many more-delicate species. In fact, the discovery of several new species in the Ottawa District occurred during winter botanical excursions by Clarie and Enid Frankton, Don Lafontaine and others. They correctly reasoned that the evergreen plants would be easier to spot in winter when the obscuring non-evergreen vegetation had essentially withered away.

Over and above the real possibilities of new and important discoveries (and a fine recreational experience), botanizing from snowshoes can help you to rediscover an apparently familiar locale. You see it with different eyes and in a different light. For one thing, the lay of the land and landform shapes are much more evident in winter. Gone is that curtain of green growth that blocks out the broader vista. You can see at a glance, for instance, how the slopes align to direct seepage into that wet depression where the Ostrich Fern is so common in the summer, how much larger and more evenly spaced are the trees on that slope where the spring wildflowers are so abundant, or a million other insights. You begin to see the landscape as an interconnected series of characters and relationships rather than just as a collection of miscellaneous features. At that point, you will be able to use this ecological understanding to find new Ostrich Fern stands, other rich wildflower slopes, and many other surprises that you were not even aware of. You have become an ecologist!

... and all you needed was a pair of snowshoes (or skis) and your own natural curiosity.

National Museum Activities

Images of the Wild

The exhibit of more than 50 paintings by the renowned Canadian artist and naturalist Robert Bateman continues until November 29.

In conjunction with this exhibit, David M. Lank will speak about animal art in books during the last four centuries. Those Club members who missed Mr. Lank's superb talk at the Club's Annual Dinner in 1980 will have a second chance on Wednesday, November 18, at 8 p.m. in the Museum Auditorium.

Audubon Wildlife Film

November 25, 8 p.m. *Quebec Whales and Labrador Tales* with Tom Sterling in the Museum Auditorium.

Museum Winter Hours

The Victoria Memorial Museum is open daily except Monday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The museum is closed on Christmas Day.

Charles Macnamara of Arnprior

Joyce M. Reddoch

Those of you who have read Clyde Kennedy's *The Upper Ottawa Valley* (1970) may remember that it featured some excellent photographs of early lumbering activities. These photographs were taken by Charles Macnamara, who was accountant and secretary-treasurer at McLachlin Brothers from 1885 until the company ran out of timber rights about 1930. Not so well known are Charles Macnamara's wide-ranging observations and records of natural history, although Harry Walker referred to him and his writings in several articles in the *Ottawa Journal* in the 1940s.

Charles Macnamara was born in Quebec City in 1870 and moved with his family to Arnprior in 1880. He grew up with his brother and sister in the family home on Daniel Street beside the Mada-waska River and continued to live there until his death in 1944. His brother's only child, Jean (Cunningham), kindly provided me with most of the information and material for this article.

Although Charles Macnamara's health was never robust and he had to work long hours, his accomplishments in natural history were considerable and varied. They were all the more amazing when we realize that he did not have a car. His study area was confined to the stretch of pasture, woodland and cedar swamp between his home, the family cottage four km away on Marshall's Bay, and the McLachlin mills north of Marshall's Bay on the Ottawa River. Sometimes he rode to more distant spots, such as the Pakenham Hills and the fens beside Lowney Lake and White Lake, with his friend, Liguori Gormley, a travelling insurance salesman.

Macnamara did not let his isolation in a small Ottawa Valley town hinder his participation in the community of naturalists. His interest was kindled initially by correspondence courses from Cornell University and was expanded by membership in prominent natural history societies in Canada and the United States. He was a member of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club from 1908 until his death. He conducted extensive correspondence with some of the leading biologists and naturalists of his day and built up a valuable library of monographs and manuals in his areas of interest. He was a prolific writer; his articles appeared in *The Amateur Photographer and Photography*, *The British Journal of Photography*, *The Canadian Entomologist*, *The Ottawa Naturalist*, *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*, *Natural History*, *Bird Lore*, and probably several other journals.

With Liguori Gormley, Macnamara founded and participated in the Arnprior Christmas Bird Census. (Michael Runtz describes the count in detail in the article following this one.) His articles on bird occurrences and behaviour contributed to Lloyd and Lanning's report on the birds of Renfrew County (Canadian Field-Naturalist 62: 47-65 (1948)).

Macnamara devoted at least three decades to the study of Springtails (Order *Collembola*), minute insects which live in moss, soil and leaf litter. With infinite patience he collected and examined them, and studied their food and habits. He described and named six species of Springtails new to science.

One of Macnamara's early interests was artistic photography of landscapes and studio subjects. His studio views were taken



This picture of a Dobsonfly (*Corydalus cornutus*, Order Neuroptera), shown about half actual size, is an example of Macnamara's beautiful camera work. By contrast, his microphotography included fungus spores in the intestines of a Springtail at 360X.



Ginseng was one of many woodland plants which Macnamara discovered and photographed. The photographs shown here were reproduced from prints mounted in Macnamara's scrap books.



The delicate Calypso orchid, shown here actual size, is one of 22 species of orchids which Macnamara discovered in the Arnprior area. In all, he made more than 150 glass negatives of orchids.

with a large format ($6\frac{1}{2}$ " x $8\frac{1}{2}$ ") camera; most of the outdoor work was done with a smaller ($3\frac{1}{4}$ " x $4\frac{1}{4}$ ") camera, both using glass negatives. He experimented with the newest print-making techniques as they became available and submitted his best work to London salons.

Macnamara used his cameras in his natural history studies as instruments of observation and record, always with the sense of composition which he developed in his salon work. In his later years, he put together in loose-leaf "scrap books" some photo-stories based on his intensive notes. He wrote stories on beaver life (*Beaver technics, a study of the working methods of a beaver colony 1918-1932*), orchids (*Some orchids of Eastern North America*) and many other natural history topics. He also was working on a book describing the early lumbering days, but he died before he



*This view of the habitat of the only colony of Wide-leaved Ladies'-tresses (*Spiranthes lucida*) which Macnamara ever found was probably taken on June 22, 1913. The colony was near a small stream running through the tall sedges in the left foreground.*

could finish it.

I would need a book even to catalogue Charles Macnamara's writings, photographs and correspondence. Instead, I hope you will appreciate the examples of his photography which are shown on these pages and realize that they represent only the tip of the iceberg.

Acknowledgements: I am indeed grateful to Jean (Mrs. F.F.) Cunningham for so generously making available to me her uncle's material, also to Edward C. Becker of Agriculture Canada for locating Macnamara's entomological books, papers and glass negatives there, to Mary Stuart for lending me a copy of Harry Walker's article on Macnamara's orchid work, and to Bud and Peg Levy and Susan Allard for making connections for me.



Showy Orchis (Galearis spectabilis), about half actual size
Macnamara specialized in close-up photography of orchid plants
and flowers (up to $3\frac{1}{2} \times$) long before such techniques were common.

The Pakenham-Arnprior Christmas Bird Census

Michael W.P. Runtz

Although the Pakenham-Arnprior Christmas Bird Census is a fairly recent title amongst the almost countless censuses performed each year, the original counts from which it derives its name both go back over many years. In fact, the Arnprior and Pakenham counts were two of the first to spring up in Canada! It is particularly amazing that two counts could take place in such small communities separated by a mere twelve km, each manned often by only two or three people loyal only to the count in their own community.

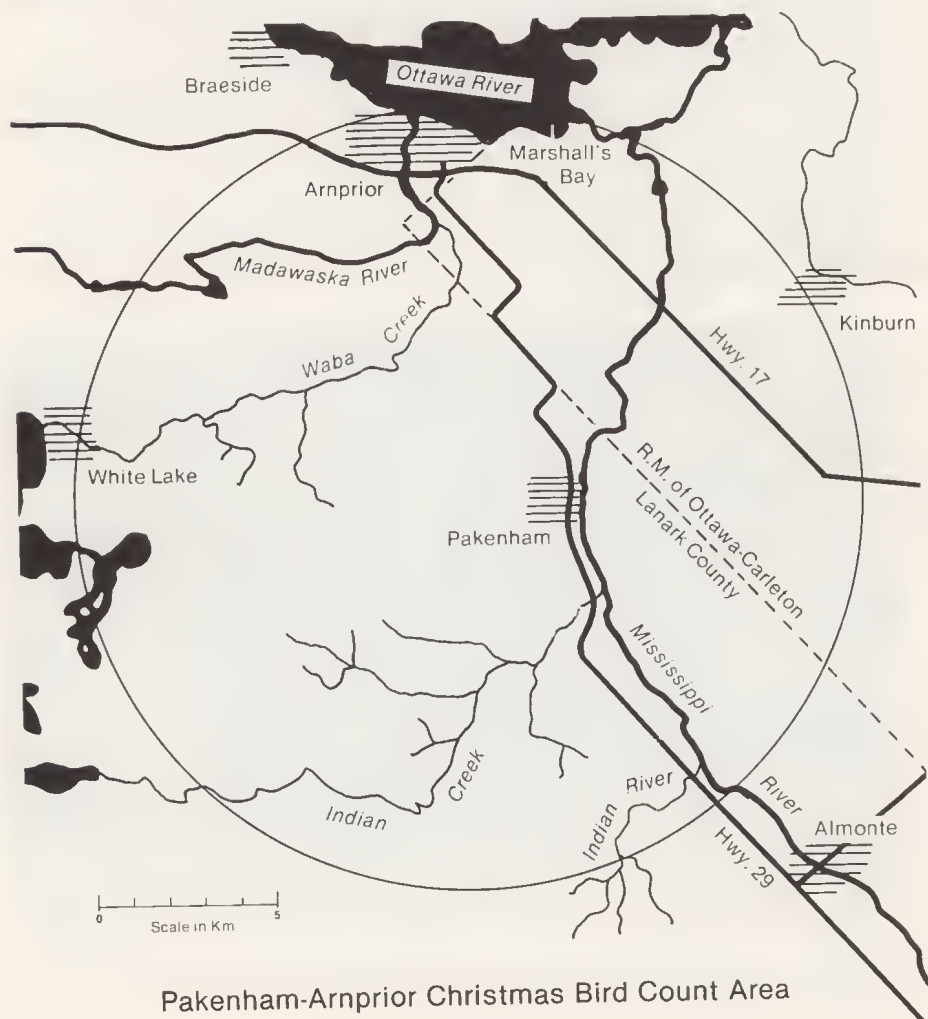
The Arnprior Christmas Bird Count was the first to appear, originating in 1913. Charles Macnamara and Liguori Gormley faithfully traversed the same route along the south shore of the Ottawa River year after year. Gormley would travel west from Arnprior as far as Braeside then would head south in a loop back to town. Macnamara would wander east through the area later



This is a self-portrait of Charles Macnamara which he entitled "The Bird-Census Taker's Christmas Dinner 1925".

to be called the Nopoming Game Preserve, as far as Marshall's Bay. They would usually travel on snowshoes, although the rare mild winter permitted less cumbersome footwear to be worn. One such season occurred in 1923-24; Macnamara found dandelions in blossom on Christmas Day!

In 1925 Charles Macnamara published in *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* a summary of the first twelve counts. His reference to the 1924 census provides us with the first hint of group competitiveness in this count: "Liguori, being a better ornithologist than I, nearly always contributes the best finds. So when we met in the evening to compile our lists, I announced my American Three-toed Woodpecker with a flourish of pride. Alas! he countered with the unique record of two Waxwings, which he said might be Bohemian!"



These early records provide us with a valuable insight into the bird populations of years gone by. In 1925 Macnamara wrote in reference to the newly arrived Starling: "As yet the birds (starlings) are relatively few and have attracted no public attention. But these are probably only the first trickles of the flood, and in a few years may be as familiar in this part of the country, and as little welcome, as the English Sparrow." (Macnamara 1925). An accurate prediction indeed!

Macnamara and Gormley, the only participants of the Arnprior Christmas Bird Count, recorded an admirable 42 species between 1913 and 1939. Counts were apparently not taken in the years 1928, 1930, 1931 and 1933. No record can be located for 1925; however, the photograph reproduced at the beginning of this article and clearly dated 1925 shows Macnamara enjoying Christmas dinner while on his count, very obviously a bachelor!

The Pakenham Christmas Bird Census was first taken on December 23, 1925, and, like the Arnprior Count, had only two participants. The late Edna G. Ross, along with her brother Allan F. Ross, started off this historic count which for many years to come was to be a family affair. Their sister, Verna Ross (McGiffin) first joined the count in 1926 and is still participating to date! One more of the clan, Wilmer Ross, increased the roster (or should it be Ross-ter?) to four in 1931 and took part in the occasional count after that date.



Pakenham Christmas Bird Census, December 24, 1932; from left to right are Wilmer, Edna, Verna and Allan Ross.

But it was Edna who was the real backbone of the count. She was the count compiler for an outstanding forty-six years. During those years she missed only two censuses: 1956 due to her being abroad and 1957 due to illness. It must have been most gratifying for Edna Ross to have seen this count which she initiated grow from just two observers in 1925 to a total of fourteen observers in 1972 (the last year she participated) and to have seen the list of species reported climb from 7 to 26 species. Edna not only sustained the count through its early years, but also created an awareness and appreciation of birds in her community. She did much to encourage new recruits to join the count and to create an interest in youngsters (like myself years ago) to return each year.

The Pakenham group received some assistance from an Arnprior contingent in 1965. I remember this count particularly well as it was my first bird count and I was about twelve years old. It was so incredibly exciting, arising at an early hour (although not really so by today's standards) to meet in front of the local newspaper offices. Mr. G.S. Levy (alias "Hawkeye" to the readers of his column in *The Arnprior Guide*) headed this group. His wife, Peg, Mrs. John Gillies, D. Caldwell and I completed the crew. Off we headed to the mysterious wilds of the White Lake Mountains where I unforgettably discovered the most exciting bird of my life up to that time - a Pileated Woodpecker! Another find a short while later was to remain always locked in my memory - a beautiful Red-breasted Nuthatch climbing about on a snow-covered rock. From that moment on, I knew I would never miss another Christmas Count as long as I could lift a pair of binoculars!

As the area of the Pakenham Count extended to the edge of Arnprior, the Arnprior group covered the section from Arnprior south to White Lake and east towards Pakenham. Each year the Arnprior group became more involved with the count, until finally the group decided to request that the Count circle be shifted to the west to include more of the area adjacent to the Madawaska River, allowing more home coverage. In 1970 the centre of the seven and one-half mile circle was shifted to 45° 20' N, 76° 20' W. At this time the count name was also changed to the current "Pakenham-Arnprior" title.

The Pakenham-Arnprior Christmas Bird Census not only underwent several area and name changes over the years, but also experienced changes in other aspects. One of the major changes, and one that probably had the greatest impact on the count, was the improvement of transportation. Macnamara and Gormley operated strictly on foot, while the Rosses introduced a novel form in 1926: "observers drove together 6 miles with horse and cutter" (Ross and Ross 1927)! I am sure that this form of horsepower was considerably more dependable in cold weather than the type we often struggle with today. Skis were first recorded in 1935, and the automobile appeared on the scene in 1937. This latter

form of transportation was rather limited in use initially due to lack of road maintenance. "It was the advent of school buses in the area that dramatically changed the winter conditions for bird watchers. After their introduction, roads had to be kept open so that children might be driven daily to schools far removed from their homes. Now the Count observers were able to reach choice birding areas quickly by car, or could travel for miles through the country in comfort, searching the open fields and roadways" (McGiffin 1978). And, of course, improved optical equipment and knowledge of birds all contributed to the success of the count as the years passed.

The Pakenham-Arnprior Christmas Bird Census has continued to grow and improve yearly. Last year our most successful count to date was taken by a record 31 observers who tallied a record 6,699 birds of a record 46 species. A Red-headed Woodpecker and a Hoary Redpoll were new species to the count, while 14 record high counts for individual species were taken. Since the first counts were taken at Arnprior and at Pakenham, in 1913 and 1925 respectively, a total of 75 species has been observed to date. Due to the excellent coniferous cover over much of our area, a good supply of finches is usually present, even during "finch-less" winters. And increasing numbers of feeders in the area are regularly turning up Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Dark-eyed Junco, and occasionally such "goodies" as Cardinal, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Carolina Wren and Red-headed Woodpecker. The count occasionally turns up some exciting raptor; Hawk Owl, Boreal Owl and Great Gray Owl have all been seen.

So, if you would like to see some of our more interesting winter birds, or if you would just like to see some of the most beautiful scenery in the Ottawa Valley, please consider this to be an open invitation to join us on the Pakenham-Arnprior Christmas Bird Census this coming winter.

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to Mrs. Verna McGiffin for the use of the family photo and her notes, and to Mrs. F.F. Cunningham for the use of her uncle, Charles Macnamara's, photo and notes.

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SPECIES OBSERVED
PAKENHAM-ARNPRIOR CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS
1913 to 1980

Common Loon	Gray Jay
Mallard	Blue Jay
American Black Duck	Northern Raven
Wood Duck	American Crow
Ring-necked Duck	Black-capped Chickadee
Scaup, species	Boreal Chickadee
Common Goldeneye	White-breasted Nuthatch
Bufflehead	Red-breasted Nuthatch
Hooded Merganser	Brown Creeper
Northern Goshawk	Carolina Wren
Sharp-shinned Hawk	American Robin
Cooper's Hawk	Golden-crowned Kinglet
Red-tailed Hawk	Bohemian Waxwing
Rough-legged Hawk	Cedar Waxwing
American Kestrel	Northern Shrike
Ruffed Grouse	European Starling
Ring-necked Pheasant	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Gray Partridge	House Sparrow
Herring Gull	Eastern Meadowlark
Rock Dove	Red-winged Blackbird
Mourning Dove	Common Grackle
Common Screech Owl	Brown-headed Cowbird
Great Horned Owl	Northern Cardinal
Snowy Owl	Evening Grosbeak
Hawk Owl	Purple Finch
Great Gray Owl	Pine Grosbeak
Boreal Owl	Hoary Redpoll
Belted Kingfisher	Common Redpoll
Pileated Woodpecker	Pine Siskin
Red-headed Woodpecker	American Goldfinch
Hairy Woodpecker	Red Crossbill
Downy Woodpecker	White-winged Crossbill
Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker	Dark-eyed Junco
Northern Three-toed Woodpecker	Tree Sparrow
Horned Lark	White-throated Sparrow
Common Merganser	Song Sparrow
Red-breasted Merganser	Lapland Longspur
	Snow Bunting

Species observed during the census period but not on census day:
Canvasback, Barred Owl, Winter Wren, Rufous-sided Towhee, Swamp Sparrow

The Year of the Huns

Daniel F. Brunton

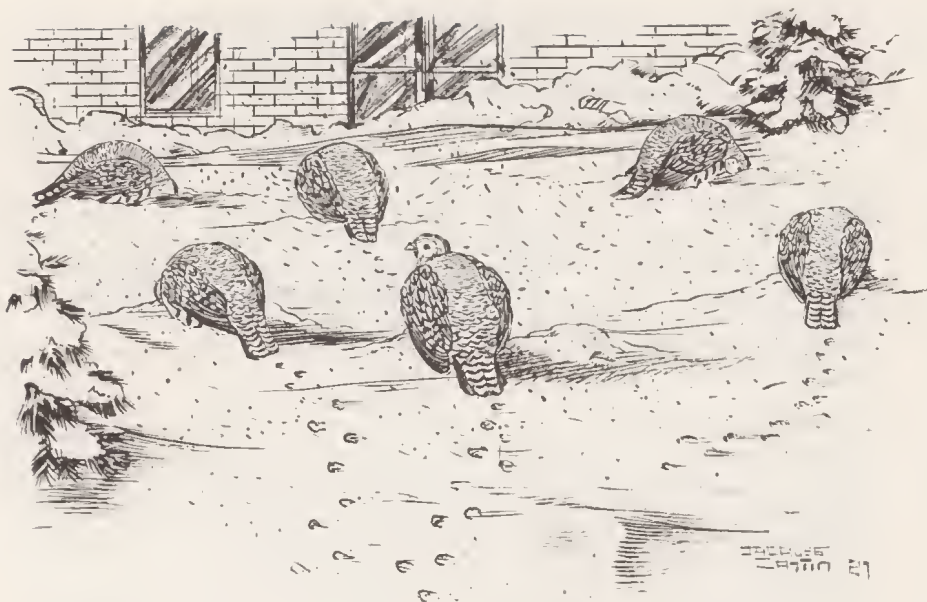
It was more than just seasonally appropriate that a record number of Gray Partridge were observed on the 1980 Ottawa-Hull Christmas Bird Count (CBC). No, none were seen in pear trees, but the 681 birds reported represent an all-time North American CBC record. The previous Ottawa-Hull record (498 birds in 1968) also stood as a Canadian CBC record until Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, topped that in 1971. Saskatoon's total stood for nearly a decade until Ottawa-Hull regained the title last year.

Gray Partridge were not always so common in these parts. They are native to central Europe (hence the colloquial name of Hungarian Partridge (or Huns)) and were widely introduced into Canada as a game bird in the 1930s. After a brief period of successful breeding, severe winter weather and competition from native grouse seem to have proven too much for the newcomers and most died out. Most, that is, except those in eastern Ontario and in the southern prairies.

Huns were first recorded on the Ottawa CBC in 1948 and continued to prosper in the lower Ottawa Valley until the 1960s. The scrubby fields and abandoned pastures on the fringes of the city seemed particularly suitable for this species of open grasslands, and their success was welcomed by local naturalists. The sight of small coveys of Huns scuttling from weedtop to weedtop over frozen, seemingly barren, snowy fields or rocketing out from beneath the feet of a startled skier or snowshoer was a delightful addition to the Ottawa winter scene.

Then, disaster. As the partridge slept two-by-two in hollows dug deeply into the snowy fields one storm-filled February night in 1971, a severe sleet storm encased the Ottawa area in a deep, hard layer of ice. A great many Huns were unable to break their way out, and those that did found the weeds and grasses that provide the bulk of their winter food entombed in a thick covering of ice. The population was decimated. While an average of 195 Huns had been seen on Ottawa-Hull CBCs in the 1960s, the post sleet storm totals of the 1970s fell to an average of about 75 birds.

A series of hard winters and the ever-increasing growth of housing and industrial parks in the suburbs did little to help the Huns regain their former status, and there were those of us who felt that the glory days were over for this delightful little creature. Then, when all realistic hopes seemed dashed, the mild temperatures and minimal snowfall of the 1979/1980 winter gave



A covey of Gray Partridge digging for lawn shoots. The partridge will literally disappear from view as they dig down to reach the grass shoots on which they like to feed.

illustration by Jacques Cantin

the partridge a greatly needed boost. A high proportion of the population survived into the spring of 1980 and enjoyed a boom breeding year - and the Huns were back!

On the 1980 Ottawa-Hull CBC, every group south of the Ottawa River recorded large numbers of partridge. Britannia, the traditional stronghold of the species, went from an all-time low of zero in 1979 ('can't get lower than that!') to an extraordinary total of 425 birds in 1980. An unbelievable 380 were seen by Roger Taylor and I in the Britannia area alone. It was Huns' Heaven!

How could the population have recovered so quickly? Surely one ideal winter was not completely responsible for this miraculous recovery?

We found most of the partridge on wind-swept lawns around buildings in the Merivale Road industrial parks, and Bernie Ladouceur had a similar experience in the east end. Much to our surprise, the birds continued to stay in virtually the precise spots in which they were seen on the Count. One flock of 14 birds, for instance, apparently did not leave a particular lawn from the day of the Count (December 21) until at least January

18. Why did they stay put like this?

Paul Catling became interested in this question too, and together we studied the birds further. We spent time assessing habitats, examining their feeding areas, watching their feeding behaviour, and collecting partridge droppings for later study. The birds, it seems, were eating the fall shoots of the lawn grass. These shoots would be responsible for the new growth the following spring and would be packed with energy. When we examined the partridge droppings, we found no evidence to suggest that the birds were eating any grass seed. Although our conclusions are very tentative at this point, we have come up with some "guesstimates" of what the Huns were doing and why it was advantageous for them to do so.

It appears that the Huns were feeding on these lawn areas because they were kept free of snow by the winds swirling around the buildings and because these particular lawns were sodded. The heavy use of fertilizer to speed growth at the sod farm has, we suspect, super-enriched these lawns relative to seeded or naturally-vegetated areas. These extra nutrients would be concentrated in the fall shoots where new growth would initiate the following spring. It may be that a small area of this "super-grass" is sufficiently nutritious to support an abnormally large number of Huns. Ironically, by concentrating in such small areas, the partridge further enrich the grass with their droppings, a sort of continuing enrichment process. It has been established that Canada Geese along the Toronto waterfront do similarly, and, indeed, it seems that the geese are able to detect which are the most nutritious areas of lawn. Could it be that Ottawa's Huns have also developed a taste for "super-grass"? And one day, will we hear tales of marauding coveys of partridge terrorizing picnickers and small dogs, the way the Toronto geese do? I hope so!

The winter of 1981/1982 will provide another opportunity to watch our industrial park Huns and see if indeed the Gray Partridge has taken a leaf from the Canada Goose's book. I certainly hope it has, for it would be a delightful irony if the development of the industrial parks that destroyed so much excellent Huns habitat was ultimately responsible for even larger populations than before.

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club may ultimately have to establish another public bird feeder, but one with a big difference. Instead of bags of seed, we'll need rolls of sod for this one!

After Emily Carr

Grey has its beauty
and the mist-washed landscape
has its forms and shadows.
The trees rise gaunt
hiding the images in denseness.
Twentieth-century man
stands at the edge of the forest
and thinks totems and spirits
then he too longs for the flash,
the warmth, the redness of fire.
Show me the space-age man
who would walk in the forest
without his firestick
or his cross or his friend
and I show you a man
without thought and imagination
without a proper respect
for the shapes of darkness
and its gods.

Linda Jeays

Linda Jeays is a member of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club
and a professional educator/writer.

Overnight Outing to Harrington

Frances E. Goodspeed

As a sequel to the Club's earlier trip (reported in the last issue of *Trail & Landscape*), we again joined the Catharine Traill Naturalists' Club from Montreal at Harrington, but this time for a longer stay and in another season. This adventure was inspired by Father Potvin, a remarkable naturalist and person.

On Saturday, September 5th, sixteen OFNC members made their way via Hawkesbury and Calumet to the Harrington Nature Centre, meeting there with thirteen from the Montreal group shortly after 10 a.m. Father Potvin provided each person with a trail map of the area especially marked to match with lists of mushrooms also provided. Before lunch the entire group followed Father Potvin around the Woodpecker Trail and learned an incredible amount from him. Besides identifying all the fungi in sight, he suggested a clover soup, advised on the use of plantain to sooth stings, and told us that the Blue Cohosh berries were eaten by Indians in the fall to get babies in the spring.

After a late lunch, members explored different trails and collected mushrooms and other fungi for identification. By suppertime a large table was laden with hundreds of specimens.



Father Potvin and the group discuss some of the plants and mushrooms which they found at Harrington Nature Centre.

After supper Father Potvin described the value of a number of books on mushrooms and explained the identification of all the fungi collected. The hooting of an owl (Barred?) and a bonfire capped the day's activities. While most of the Montreal group was housed at the Nature Centre, the OFNC members bedded down in the 4-H cabins nearby.

Sunday morning Father Potvin took the group to the CIP forest tree nursery and greenhouses where Edith Jarvis, a CIP technician, gave an excellent description of how the spruce and pine seedlings are grown and developed.

Before lunch there was time for more explorations and collecting. At this point a number of the group was distracted from their "nature" interests by a group of rafters and kayakers shooting the picturesque white water rapids of the Rouge River just behind the 4-H cabins. Quite a sight!

After lunch, farewells were bid as the group dispersed, some heading home, some exploring, and some following Father Potvin to learn more.

We are all indebted to Father Potvin for his generosity in sharing his incredible store of knowledge with us. On behalf of Frank Bell, who led the outing for us, may I thank the CIP Nature Centre for providing its excellent facilities and the 4-H camp for opening its cabins for our use. As a bonus, several members enjoyed their tasty mushroom collection (eaten based on the assurances of Father Potvin) after they got home.



The Sunday morning visit to the CIP greenhouses to examine seedling confifers
photos by Fran Goodspeed

OFNC Annual Picnic

Annette Murray

The day had a rather dubious beginning, but, yes, the sun finally shone over another OFNC Annual Picnic. Because of this, September 12th will be remembered as a most enjoyable outing with old friends and new OFNC members at Fitzroy Provincial Park, a beautiful spot on the Ottawa River.

At eight o'clock the Dinobus, full of OFNC enthusiasts, left the Museum of Natural Sciences for the hour-long drive to the park. Still others came by private car, and, in all, about forty-five people participated in making this year's picnic a success. We were pleased to see one of our honorary members, Mary Stuart, joining us for this outing as well.

We were fortunate in having with us Roger Taylor, Jim Ginns and Bob Bracken. These three were immediately drafted as leaders to take charge of the bird group, mushroom group and general walk, respectively. Each leader proved to be patient, dedicated and inspiring. We appreciated their giving us their time and the effort they make on our behalf.

After a morning pursuing our individual interests in one group or another, we all met for lunch at the picnic tables beside the Ottawa River where lively discussions on the morning's "finds" took place. Cheese and apples were provided, and these proved to be popular with everyone. After lunch, we regrouped and continued our walks until it was time to return to the Dinobus for the drive back to Ottawa and the end of an enjoyable and eventful day.

A great deal of enthusiasm and interest was shown by our three junior members; it was good to have them with us.

The following is a brief summary of the different areas explored.

Birds The bird group had a most enjoyable and satisfactory outing. The total absence of shore birds, due probably to the especially high level of the Ottawa River, was a little disappointing; we did, however, have a final count of 37 species. The 2 Sharp-shinned Hawks, the Red-shouldered Hawk and the group of 7 Common Loons flying overhead were especially nice to see. It took a bit of coaxing, but our efforts were rewarded in bringing to the fore 11 kinds of warblers, including a Pine and a Parula. Three Vireos were seen by the more experienced birders, and we ended our day with a perfect view of a perching Eastern Phoebe.

Mushrooms The mushroom group had an excellent day. Its list included Parasol Mushroom, Winter Mushroom, Shaggy Mane, Pine Bolete, American Bolete, Peppery Bolete, Witches' Butter, Wolf's Blood, Club Clavaria, Fly Agaric, Waxy Caps, Hoof Polypore, Anise-scented Polypore, Bay-coloured Polypore, Fairy Ring Mushroom, Scaly Pholiota, Fusiform Coral Fungus, White Coral Fungus, Eyelash Cup, Tuberous Collybia and several species of *Cortinarius*. An interesting and exceptionally large Oyster Mushroom was seen growing on the limb of a large tree about 5 metres off the ground. This varied assortment should keep our more recent mushroom addicts very busy during the months ahead exploring the marvelous world of mushrooms.

Butterflies Butterflies provided a pleasant accent to our day, and we were fortunate in seeing American Painted Lady, Mourning Cloak, Monarch, Clouded Sulphur, Cabbage White, Bronze Copper, Question Mark and Comma. Perhaps under this heading we should mention Anne Ginn's last find of the day, a young caterpillar of the spectacular Imperial Moth.

Ferns and Fern Allies About 15 kinds of ferns kept everyone hopping on the general walk. Christmas Fern, Maidenhair Fern, Clinton's Fern, Boott's Wood Fern, as well as Dwarf Scouring-rush, were among those species which we found in this rich habitat.

Miscellaneous Bob Braken reported seeing Prickly-ash and Closed Gentian, while another group drew our attention to three raccoons sleeping peacefully curled up on the branches of an exceptionally tall tree. Roger Taylor pointed out a tree which showed the diggings of a Pileated Woodpecker, curiously very close to the ground and beside the path.

We now look forward to next year's Annual Picnic!

* * *

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Corrections: In the last issue of *Trail & Landscape*, credit for the photograph of the Ottawa Regional Science Fair winner Mike Mulvey and OFNC's Ken Taylor should have been to the Fair's official photographer (page 215); Sheila C. Thomson is Sheila's correct name (page 177); and Dorothy Greene's phone number for those who want to lend the *Trail & Landscape* typing team a hand is 829-9831. Our apologies!

Coming Events

arranged by the Excursions and Lectures Committee
Frank Bell (521-8046), Chairman

All times stated for excursions and walks are departure or starting times. Please plan to arrive ten minutes early to avoid being left behind; leaders start promptly. If you need a ride, don't hesitate to ask the leader.

Sunday
8 November WINTER TWIG WALK
Leader: Jim Wickware (832-3398)
Meet: Britannia Drive-In Theatre, Carling Avenue
Time: 1:00 p.m.
This year, the emphasis will be on bushes and shrubs, rather than on trees, under winter conditions.

Tuesday
10 November OFNC MONTHLY MEETING
THE GREAT BLUE HERON
Speaker: Henri Ouellet
Meet: Auditorium, National Museum of Natural Sciences
Metcalf and McLeod Streets
Time: 8:00 p.m.
The Great Blue Heron is a documentary film produced by the National Film Board. The narration was written by Henri Ouellet, Curator of Ornithology, National Museum of Natural Sciences, who will introduce the film to OFNC members. The film deals with the life history of the Great Blue Heron on its breeding grounds on the lower St. Lawrence River in Quebec. The period covered in the film extends from the return of the birds in the spring to their departure in the fall. Aspects of nesting behaviour, feeding ecology, foraging and competition are shown. This film has won several international awards.

Sunday
22 November HAWKS AND OTHER LATE FALL MIGRANTS
Leader: Bruce Di Labio (729-6267)
Meet: Main entrance of the National Museum of Natural Sciences, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets
Time: 8:00 a.m.
The emphasis will be on hawks and waterfowl. Wear warm clothing.

Tuesday
8 December OFNC MONTHLY MEETING
DIVERSITY OF FORM AND COLOUR IN NORTH AMERICAN
AMPHIPOD CRUSTACEANS
Speaker: Ed Bousfield
Meet: Auditorium, National Museum of Natural Sciences
Metcalfe and McLeod Streets
Time: 8:00 p.m.
Amphipods are small to medium-sized shrimp-like crustaceans that abound in nearly all permanent aquatic environments of the world, from shore to abyss, from polar seas to the tropics, in fresh water both at the surface and underground, and from Indo-Pacific islands to the highest rain forests. By means of colour slides, Ed will demonstrate the wide diversity of form and colour that enables these animals to utilize a wide range of food resources and that provides the basis for modern classification of this very successful ordinal group. Ed is a senior scientist with the National Museum of Natural Sciences and a past President of the OFNC.

Friday
11 December WINTER BIRD SONGS
Leader: Steve O'Donnell (226-4217)
Meet: Activity Room #3 at the National Museum of Natural Sciences, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Records and tapes of bird songs will be compared and used to analyse difficult songs. Please bring paper and a pencil.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE GREEK CREEK AREA? The National Capital Commission is preparing a development plan for the Green Creek area in the eastern Greenbelt. In order to plan effectively, the Commission needs to know about the area's natural features. If you can help, pass your information on to Heather Wilson at 992-4828 before December 31.

DEADLINE: *Material intended for the January-February issue must be in the Editor's hands before November 7.*

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